

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have canceled claims 1-23. Claim 24 does not exist (not entered). The Examiner has stated that claims 7, 9-13, and 15-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have added new claims 25-32. Thus, claims 25-32 are currently pending in this application. New claims (25-32) incorporate the material from deleted claims 7, 9-13, and 15-17 as well as any intervening claims. Applicants request that these amendments be entered to put these claims in better condition for allowance. Moreover, these amendments do not bring up new issues.

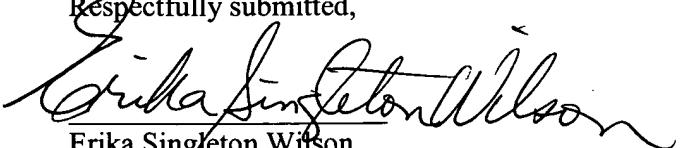
DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 18-23 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,689,342. Claim 18 has been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,787,675. Additionally, claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 2-6 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,787,675. Responsive to this rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 18-23. This cancellation should obviate the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Erika Singleton Wilson, Reg. No. 52,368, at (973) 385-5564.

Respectfully submitted,

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